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6 October 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

State Department review completed

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>	
Mozambique.	1	
Congo	2	
<div></div>		25X1
Colombia.	3	
<div></div>		25X1
Peru.	4	
<div></div>		25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
6 October 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Mozambique

FRELIMO insurgents now are in virtual control of sizable largely uninhabited sections of the two northern administrative districts, and may be stepping up their terrorist activities in other areas. Portuguese officials, however, now are planning countermeasures against this increasingly effective insurgency.

FRELIMO combatants, formerly operating out of Tanzania, have taken advantage of Portuguese inactivity and complacency by occupying parts of the vast region along the Tanzanian border from Lake Nyasa to the ocean. Since May, they have steadily increased their military pressures on small Portuguese units in the northwestern district, and now are consolidating their gains there. They are also bringing in refugees from neighboring countries. The rebels reportedly still hold large sections of the area along the Tanzanian border and the ocean in the northeast, home of the traditionally restive Macomde tribe.

The FRELIMO organization may also have engineered recent violence in southern Mozambique. Late last week, two European sentries were killed in the garrison area of Lourenco Marques, the first known act of terrorism against Europeans in that city.

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Despite the increasing terrorist and insurgency activity, the rebels are still no serious threat to the 21,000 troops in Mozambique. (Map)

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2. Congo

The government's two-pronged advance to clear the Fizi area has been stalled by stiff rebel resistance. The main force, moving north overland from Albertville, reached a location 25 miles south of Fizi before being stopped. A smaller force under mercenary commander Hoare late last week occupied Baraka, 22 miles north of Fizi, but has also been stopped. Most mercenaries with the main force now have reinforced Hoare, who may decide to move north toward other rebel concentrations if he is unable to break rebel opposition south of his position.

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4. Colombia

Prolonged disturbances of public order in Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Santa Marta at the end of September, although causing little damage other than broken windows, interrupted highway traffic and closed the airfields and long-distance telephone exchanges for at least 48 hours. Order was restored by mixed army and police patrols, but the atmosphere is still tense.

The far-leftist renegade priest, Camilo Torres, held an illegal rally in Bogota on 1 October. The crowd was reported to be disappointingly small and, in spite of an obvious inclination to rowdiness, was restricted by police to very little damage, mostly limited to broken windows.

Authorities apprehended a C-46 that landed illegally at Baraya, near Neiva, on 29 September.

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The Sixth Brigade continued its clean-up campaign in Riochiquito, although Tiro Fijo (Sure Shot) and Major Ciro are still at large. The minister of war announced on 28 September that the brigade had discovered a cache containing a considerable supply of material along with a container of drugs and military uniforms. The army intends to increase its civic action program in Riochiquito, as well as in the other Communist-dominated regions, according to President Valencia's statements to the US ambassador on 30 September.

Two bandit leaders in southern Tolima Department accepted a truce offered by the army for their 50 men. Several other bandit leaders in the region, who did not care to have the army so near their center of operations, had attempted to dissuade the two bandit leaders by promising support and financial backing from unspecified Communist sources.

The truce was arranged by a local Catholic priest who persuaded the army that the bandits need not go to prison but could serve out their terms by remaining on their mountainside farms.

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6. Peru

Military operations against the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) guerrilla redoubt of Mesa Pelada continue to be seriously hampered by weather conditions. Almost constant rain, cold temperatures, and heavy fog, plus the danger of antipersonnel mines and booby traps, have slowed the army's advance. The army claims, however, that it now has troops within two miles of the guerrillas on top of the 12,000-foot mesa. The air force has managed to conduct three strafing and bombing strikes during the past week.

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In the Pucuta-Satipo area, troops continue their search for guerrillas who clashed with an army unit on 23 September. One MIR camp was reported taken by the army on 4 October. Six guerrillas were killed and about two dozen Campas Indians, including women and children, were captured. Four soldiers were wounded during this operation.

-4-

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00472A001100050007-8

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The lifting of the state of siege in 17 of Peru's 24 departments indicates that the government now feels more confident of its ability to confine the insurgency to several central and southern departments. Government officials feel that the expected capture of Mesa Pelada will considerably reduce the MIR threat in the south.

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It now appears probable that most, if not all, of the approximately 40 Cuban-trained Peruvian guerrillas originally known as the Army of National

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[REDACTED]

Liberation (ELN) are cooperating with the MIR. The ELN group returned to Peru from Cuba in May 1963. Crossing from Bolivia into Peru, the group was surprised by police. A battle ensued which resulted in the death or capture of a few ELN members and dispersal of the others. Although the ELN has never been well organized or disciplined, it is capable of carrying out sporadic guerrilla or urban terrorist attacks which would be of assistance to the MIR.

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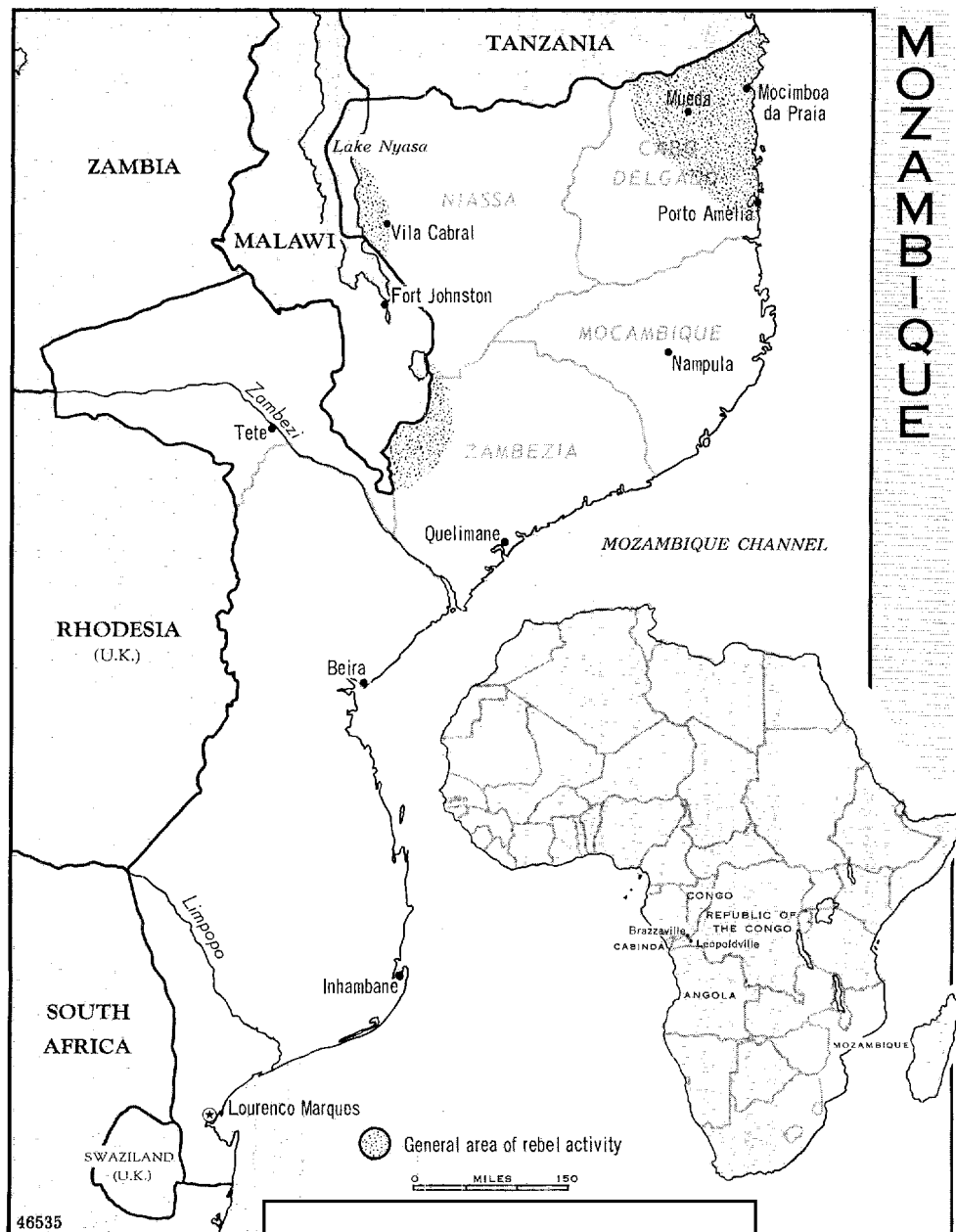
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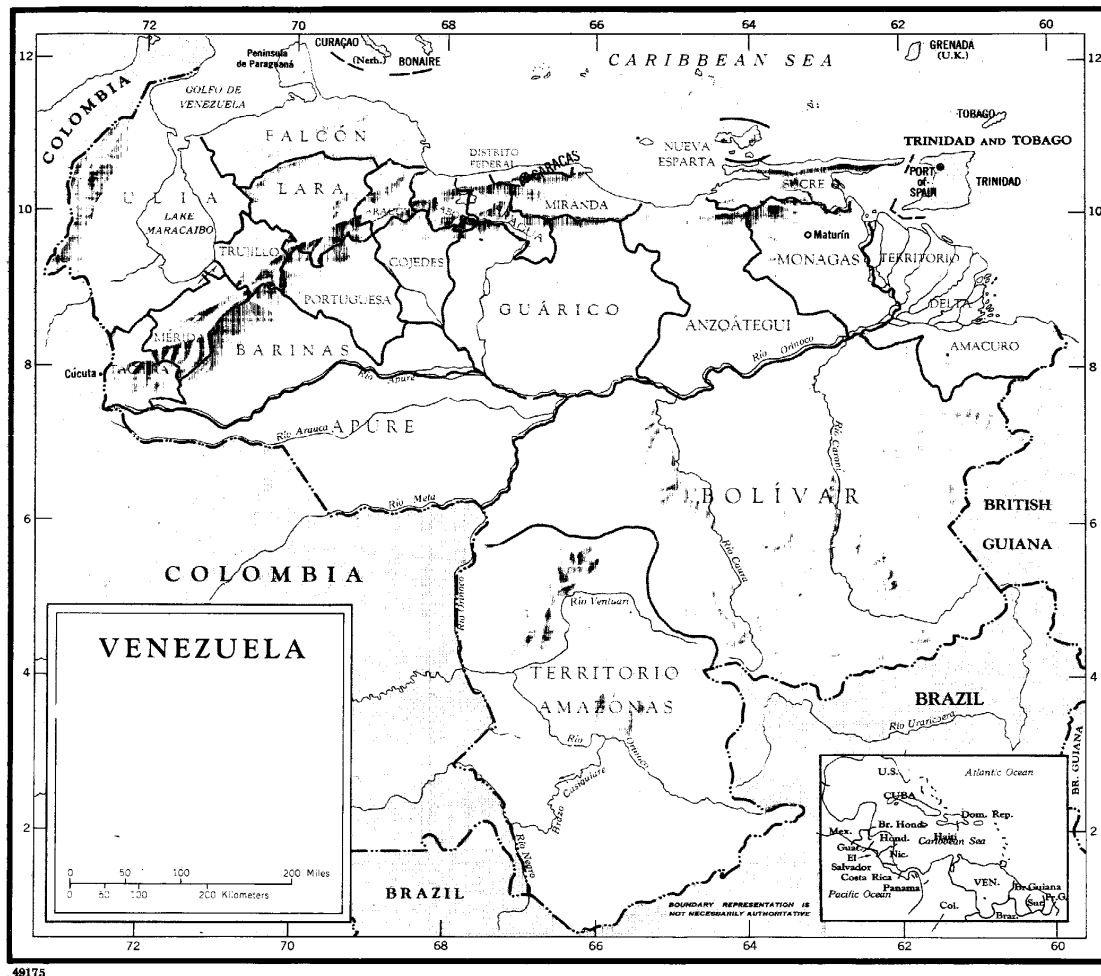
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